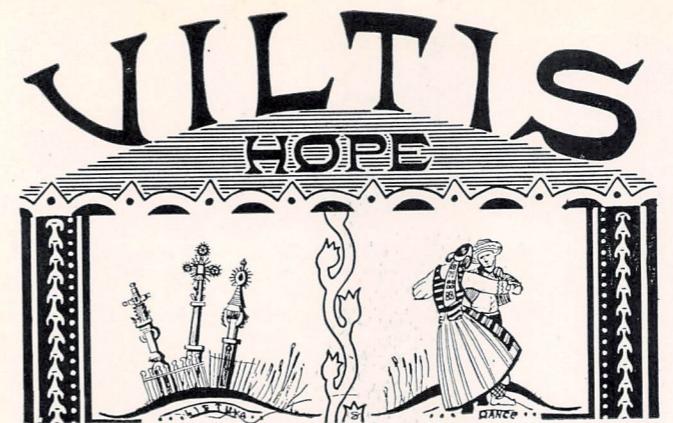




COVER PICTURE

In keeping with this issue the cover picture is of Vytis Beliajus, taken in 1947 and showing him in a Hassidic pose. The Hassidim (The Pious) believed that in order to serve God with your whole heart and soul one had to sing and dance, and both of these forms were integral parts of their worship of God. The Hassidic dance is distinct and esthetic and rarely seen. About three males, Vizonsky, Zemach and Vytis, specialized in this form of dance in this country. Vytis performed his Hassidic dances at many important Zionist events including on several occasions at the Chicago Opera House when he danced to the singing of Richard Tucker, noted Metropolitan Opera singer. The Hassidim lived mostly in Southern Poland, Northern Ukraine, Slovakia and parts of Hungary.



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VILTIS IS FOREMOST AS A FOLKLORE,
FOLKDANCE AND LITHUANISTICA MAGAZINE
You Are Assured of Authentic Material

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NEW COVER BORDER DESIGN

Our artist Lennie Mickas of Chicago drew a border of the Rūta (rue) flower, the national flower of the Lithuanians whose care was entrusted in the hands of virgin maidens and the Lithuanian women. It represents endurance and every form of virtue, including virginity. The Lithuanian folk songs mention the Rūta often and a trampled wreath of rue is the allegorical comparison of despoiled virginity. Wreaths of rue may be worn by virgins only while married women may only carry a sprig of rue but never as a wreath. The last act of a wedding ritual is the removal of the wreath of rue which is accomplished amidst a great deal of weeping and crying and singing of sad songs by the girls at the wedding. If a girl doesn't tend with care her garden of rue it marks her as a careless maiden. Many Lithuanians in the U.S. have in the flower plots beds of rue from seeds sent originally to this country as long ago as 100 years. The rue (ruta in Latin, too) is an herbaceous evergreen plant with small chartreuse blossoms.

The captional drawings which top weddings, new arrivals, latest books, etc., etc. are the creations of our talented artist Emil Zunker of Chicago.

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NEXT DEADLINE MARCH FIRST

VILTIS SUBJECT FOR EDITORIAL

It was with great elation we read recently a press release wherein VILTIS was a subject for editorialization. The Common Council For American Unity, an agency which gathers and emanates news dealing with "Democracy in Action"—human interest subjects which tend toward brotherhood and better understanding, was the agency which found VILTIS news-worthy. Their release "Index No. 54-74-P4" read as follows:

AMERICAN DEMOCRACY IN ACTION

"We are a nation of many nationalities, many races, many religions — bound together by a single unity, the unity of freedom and equality"

A folklore magazine published by a Lithuanian folk-dance enthusiast in California is a good example of two important phases of American life: intergroup understanding and the retention by various ethnic groups of parts of their native culture. The magazine called VILTIS (Hope) has, in its latest issue, articles on the following subjects: Serbian folk dancing, South Slav folk culture, Croatian costumes, Austrian and Lithuanian dances, French-Canadian folk dancing, the Azuma Kabuki or Japanese dancing, and a meeting of the Ukrainian Youth's League. The feature article is a description of the gay "Sukkoth" (Festival of Tabernacles) holiday of the Jews. All these cultural activities, the magazine reports, took place in the United States, much of it on an intergroup basis. Notes about Greek, Polish, Scottish, Irish, Scandinavian, German, Spanish and Mexican dance groups or folk festivals were also published. According to VILTIS, the folk activities of various ethnic groups in the United States are far from dying out and are winning support from those not associated with any particular group. For instance, the magazine notes that "the recent popularity of Kolo (Yugoslav folk dances) . . . has stirred up a great deal of interest in Kolo background, to the extent that there are probably more non-Yugoslavs now dancing Kolos than Yugoslavs themselves."

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NEXT ISSUE

A very interesting article on the Acadians (Cajuns) of Louisiana. Also an article by Arthur Katona, and as usual, many other good items.